

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-9, 12 and 14-24 are in the application. No claim is allowed. Claims 1 and 14 are amended. Support for the amendment may be found at page 8, par. [0100] of the published version of this application, Patent Pub. No. US 2005/0043094 A1. No new matter has been added.

Claims 14 is rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Boyd et al. ("Boyd"), US Patent Pub. 2003/0070178. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Boyd discloses methods and apparatus for a player to join a poker tournament online from a computer over a networked environment, such as the Internet. The tournament is conducted on a system by an operator via a system lounge server and table servers. However, the individual gaming units, which may be a player's personal computer or a gaming unit in a casino, with respect to the game, contain only a lounge client.

The "gaming software" in Boyd's gaming machines is only communication software, not the game itself. Accordingly, Boyd's gaming units do not contain gaming-specific software such as a pay table or a plurality of seeds for a random number generator to be implemented by the gaming unit. The graphics to play are transmitted to the selected computer by the tournament operator by way of the tournament script created by the operator. Boyd, par. [0106]. Although the examiner states that Boyd discloses receiving a fee to play in the tournament, the citation (Boyd, pages 1-2, par.[0013]) is a description of the Background, not a description of Boyd. In Boyd, after the software is loaded into the selected computer, the player is unable to submit to his computer (the selected gaming unit) a fee to play in the tournament. The operator at the lounge server is thus unable to receive an indication at the server, after the software has been downloaded at the gaming unit, that the player has submitted the fee to the gaming unit. The only way the player can play in Boyd is to have already credit on record at the lounge server before logging on to download software. Par. [0101] Therefore, in view of the amendments to claim 14, Boyd does not anticipate claim 14 and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 15-21 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Morrow, of record. This rejection is respectfully

traversed. Boyd is relied on as indicated above. The reliance on Morrow to show a reconfigurable gaming machine by transferring new game software via a network does not remedy the deficiencies of Boyd discussed above which apply to independent claim 1 and claims dependent thereon as well as to independent claim 14 and claims dependent thereon. The addition of Morrow to Boyd would appear to add more functionality to the gaming unit. This is a teaching contrary to that of Boyd, since Boyd is directed to the player only having to download the lounge client (par.[0083]-[0084]) and never having to interact with the server, i.e., receive downloads, again. The games are controlled by the operator through the tournament script. Accordingly, it is submitted that it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teachings of Boyd and Morrow. Moreover, the combination of the teachings as suggested by the examiner would still only result in the download of the lounge client. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Boyd in view of Morrow and Halliburton, of record. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The deficiencies of the combination of Boyd with Morrow are applicable also in response to this rejection and are relied upon as indicated above. The teaching of gaming software of Halliburton comprising a plurality of randomly or pseudo-randomly generated seeds for a random number generator to be used by a gaming unit would only add even more downloading of software to the gaming unit of Boyd. Moreover, the feature relied upon in Halliburton is specifically a gaming function and Boyd directs one to restrict the gaming unit to only communication functions via the lounge client through tournament script. Accordingly, it is submitted that the subject matter of claims 12, 22 and 23 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made over a combination of Boyd and Morrow in view of Halliburton. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are patentable over the cited art of record. Accordingly, Applicants submit that upon entry of this amendment all claims would be allowable and this application would be in condition to be passed to issue.

Should the examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned may be reached at the telephone number set out below. Applicants hereby petition for any additional extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any fee required in connection with the filing of this amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P279).

Respectfully submitted,
Weaver Austin Villeneuve & Sampson LLP
/Reginald J. Suyat/
Reginald J. Suyat
Reg. No. 28,172

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
(510) 663-1100